

LICENSURE

Section 1--Examinations

The Iowa Board of Nursing, in cooperation with other state boards of nursing, contracts to use national examinations (NCLEX®) for registered nurse licensure and practical nurse licensure. The licensing examinations are owned by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. (NCSBN) and are prepared by item writers and content experts recommended by boards of nursing and the National Council.

The single purpose of the licensure examination is to determine minimal competence to practice nursing as defined by legally constituted authorities. The most recent passing standard was adopted for the licensure examination for registered nurses in October 2000, and for licensed practical nurses in October 2001. Results of the NCLEX® examination are reported to candidates as pass-fail.

There are three types of nursing programs leading to licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Iowa. Graduates of associate degree, baccalaureate and professional master's degree programs are eligible to take the national examination for registered nurse licensure. In Iowa, all 40 nursing programs that prepare registered nurse candidates maintain current approval by the Iowa Board of Nursing.

There are two types of nursing programs leading to licensure as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Iowa. Graduates of community college PN programs and a USAR (91W-M6) Exportable Program, are eligible to take the national examination for practical nurse licensure. In Iowa, all 29 nursing programs that prepare practical nurse candidates maintain current approval by the Iowa Board of Nursing.

The rules and regulations of the Iowa Board of Nursing require nurses educated and licensed in a foreign country to take the national examination for registered nurse licensure or practical nurse licensure (NCLEX®). A prerequisite for taking the registered nurse licensing examination is certification by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS). A prerequisite for taking the practical nurse licensing examination is credential evaluation by CGFNS.

The NCLEX® examinations are provided using computerized adaptive testing. NCS Pearson serves as the vendor to provide testing and administration services for NCLEX®. Computerized adaptive testing is conducted at three sites in Iowa on a year-round basis. Candidates may self-schedule the examination at the time and site of choice when qualifications for licensure and test registration are complete.

There is no provision for temporary licensure of candidates for licensure by examination in Iowa.

Licensure status information may be accessed through the Iowa Board of Nursing automated telephone or online licensure verification systems.

National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®) Statistics

Table I Performance of Candidates Educated Nationally and in Iowa Programs on the NCLEX® Examinations for Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses by Number of First-Time Test Takers and Passing Percentage

NCLEX® - RN			NCLEX® - PN	
	National	Iowa	National	Iowa
7.01.02 - 9.30.02	N = 34,875 of 40,155 % = 86.85	N = 480 of 571 % = 84.06	N = 13,671 of 15,537 % = 87.99	N = 502 of 541 % = 92.79
10.01.02-12.31.02	N = 3,363 of 4,285 % = 78.48	N = 45 of 60 % = 75.00	N = 7,786 of 8,978 % = 86.72	N = 66 of 81 % = 81.48
1.01.03 - 3.31.03	N = 12,988 of 14,905 % = 87.14	N = 270 of 318 % = 84.91	N = 7,736 of 8,904 % = 86.88	N = 125 of 139 % = 89.93
4.01.03- 6.30.03	N = 18,214 of 20,204 % = 90.15	N = 300 of 329 % = 91.19	N = 6,463 of 7,497 % = 86.21	N = 184 of 188 % = 97.87
Total: 7.01.02 - 6.30.03	N = 69,430 of 79,549 % = 87.28	N = 1,095 of 1,278 % = 85.68	N = 35,654 of 40,916 % = 87.14	N = 877 of 949 % = 92.41

N = Number of first-time test takers passing of the total number taking the exam
% = Passing percentage

Table II Number of Iowa Graduates (and Passing Percentage) Taking the NCLEX® Examination for Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Licensure for the First Time in Any Jurisdiction by Type of Education

NCLEX®-RN Examination	NCLEX®-PN Examination
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Baccalaureate	N = 287 of 334 % = 85.93	PN Program	N = 877 of 949 % = 92.41
Associate Degree	N = 804 of 940 % = 85.53		
Diploma	N = 3 of 3 % = 100		

N = Number of first-time test takers passing of the total number taking the exam
 % = Passing percentage

Table IV--Iowa Candidates Educated in a Foreign Country Who Passed the Examination in Iowa

<u>Registered Nurses</u>		<u>Licensed Practical Nurses</u>
Canada	2	
Japan	1	
Norway	1	
Puerto Rico	1	
Slovakia	1	
Zambia	1	
Total	7	Total 0

Table V--Total Number of Licensees Currently Registered to Practice at the Advanced Level (advanced registered nurse practitioners)

Family Nurse Practitioners	416
Nurse Midwives	62
Pediatric Nurse Practitioners	165
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists	369
School Nurse Practitioners	4
Obstetric-Gynecologic Nurse Practitioners	155
Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners	21
Adult Nurse Practitioners	49
Clinical Nurse Specialists	114
Gerontological Nurse Practitioners	35
Neonatal Nurse Practitioners	6
Acute Care Nurse Practitioners	4
Perinatal Nurse Practitioners	1
Total	1,401

Section 2--Renewals

A licensee is considered in good standing if currently licensed or officially inactive. A lapsed license may be reinstated without examination.

Table VI--Renewals

	<u>RN</u>	<u>LPN</u>
Renewals sent	13,226	3,242
Licenses renewed	10,765	2,279
Licenses renewed with penalty	388	120
Licenses placed on inactive	653	353
Licenses became delinquent	1,948	768

Section 3--Reactivations and Reinstatements

Inactive licensees regain active status by reactivation. Licensees in delinquent status are returned to good standing by reinstatement.

Table VII--Reactivations/Reinstatements

	<u>RN</u>	<u>LPN</u>
Reactivations	287	113
Reinstatements	391	119

Section 4--Endorsements

The 2003 Iowa Code provides that the Iowa Board of Nursing may recognize a registered nurse or practical nurse license issued by another state under the condition that the licensee meets all the qualifications required in Iowa.

Table VIII--Endorsements Into Iowa

RN	599
LPN	107

Section 5--Verifications

The 2003 Iowa Code provides that the Iowa Board of Nursing may verify licensure of registered nurses or licensed practical nurses in this state to another state, territory, or foreign country. The Board of Nursing verified 110 licenses to other states, territories or foreign countries.

The Iowa Board of Nursing implemented participation in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Nursys verification of licensure system in January 2001. Nursys processes license verification requests sent to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing by nurses. The implementation of the Nursys verification system has affected the Iowa Board of Nursing as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>No. of Verifications Completed by IBON</u>
July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000	2,182
July 1, 2000-June 30, 200	1,219
July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002	188

Section 6--Number of Licensees

	<u>RN</u>	<u>LPN</u>	<u>Total</u>
*Active	38,091	9,772	47,863
*Inactive	43,237	22,956	66,193
*Delinquent	21,100	10,451	31,551
Deceased	6,007	496	6,503

*These figures may include deceased licensees about whom the Board has not been notified.

Section 7--Nurse Licensure Compact

Legislation enacting the Nurse Licensure Compact became effective on July 1, 2001. The compact provides for a state-based nursing license that is mutually recognized among all party states. This facilitates the ability to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Iowa citizens. The following states have implemented the compact: Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin. The following states have enacted but not implemented the compact: Indiana, New Jersey, North Dakota, New Mexico, Tennessee and Virginia.

Section 8—Statistical Overview

<u>Active Nurses</u>	<u>Iowa Residence</u>	<u>Out-of-State Residence</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% of Total Nurses</u>
RNs	34,883	3,208	38,091	80%
LPNs	9,175	597	9,772	20%
Total	44,058	3,805	47,863	

<u>Basic RN Education</u>	<u>Iowa Residence</u>	<u>Out-of-State Residence</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% By Program</u>
Diploma	10,288	853	11,141	29%
A.D.N.	16,048	1,378	17,426	46%
B.S.N.	8,288	948	9,236	24%
Unknown	189	18	207	1%
Total	34,813	3,197	38,010	

<u>Highest Degree Held by RNs</u>	<u>Iowa Residence</u>	<u>Out-of-State Residence</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% By Program</u>
Diploma	7,802	607	8,409	24%
A.D.N.	14,358	1,133	15,491	44%
B.S.N.	8,134	831	8,965	25%
Other Baccalaureate	2,159	225	2,384	7%
Total	32,453	2,796	35,249	

<u>Highest Degree Held by RNs</u>	<u>Iowa Residence</u>	<u>Out-of-State Residence</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% By Program</u>
Master's in Nursing	1,319	233	1,552	57%
Other Master's	834	135	969	35%
Doctorate in Nursing	45	12	57	2%
Other Doctorate	141	24	165	6%
Total	2,339	404	2,743	

Total Number of Licensees Male vs Female

	<u>RN</u>	<u>LPN</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% of Total Nurses</u>
*Active Males	1,617	352	1,969	4%
*Active Females	36,495	9,419	45,914	96%
Total	38,112	9,771	47,883	

*These figures may include deceased licensees about whom the board has not been notified.

Additional Male vs Female Information

	Iowa Residence	Out-of-State Residence	Total	% of Total Nurses
*Active RN Males	1,425	189	1,614	3.37%
*Active LPN Males	326	25	351	.73%
*Active RN Females	33,499	3,030	36,529	76.24%
*Active LPN Females	8,844	573	9,417	19.66%
Total	44,094	3,817	47,911	

Data collected for optional stats collected on 7/1/03

*Calculations may include deceased licensees about whom the board has not been notified.